

2022 11508

AA-221

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON Christ Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, West River; Christ Church, Owensville			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255)			
CITY OR TOWN: Owensville			
STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Anne Arundel	CODE 003

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Vestry of Christ Church			
STREET AND NUMBER: Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255)			
CITY OR TOWN: West River	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Anne Arundel County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Church Circle			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church is located on the north side of the Owensville Road (Maryland Route 255) which connects Owensville and Galesville, Maryland.

A small, board and batten church, this wooden structure has a long, narrow nave; small, deep chancel; and an entrance porch on the south side. The altar faces the west. The sharply-pointed, gabled entrance porch with its pointed archway is paralleled by a slightly bell-cast, pointed-gable sacristy of about the same size. Behind the sacristy is a tall, narrow bell tower with an open belfry. The pointed arches of this belfry support a modified brooch spire roofed with fish-scale shingling. Small rectangular window openings frame stained glass lancet windows. There are three similar lancets above the altar in the east wall of the chancel. The west entrance forms a passageway to a similar board and batten parish hall, which runs at right angles to the main church. This parish hall may be recent, although it blends perfectly with the style of the church.

The rather stark interior of the church has a central aisle, 'poppy headed' pews, and dark wood cross trussing in the ceiling.

There is a large churchyard to the north of the church.

Although sometimes reputed to be by the noted church architect, Richard Upjohn, Christ Church was at least built from designs offered by his Rural Architecture (1852). This book 'gave' architect-designed plans for rural parishes, with the result that some of the finest 'Upjohn churches' are these small board and batten structures of rural parishes (e.g., Brunswick, Maine; Warsaw, New York; and at the Hannah More School in Baltimore County). They represent America's own version of the 'Parish Perpendicular.' In a very good state of preservation in which the 19th-century feeling has been retained, Christ Church was built according to Ecclesiological principles with a long, narrow, and high nave, and a deep chancel--the hallmark of Upjohn's ecclesiastical work for Episcopal churches. Upjohn treated other Protestant denominations differently.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1869

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

lasaphy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The connection between Christ Church, Owensville, and Richard Upjohn (1802-1878), the noted American architect, gives this Anne Arundel County, Maryland, parish more than local significance.

Upjohn, born in England, came to the United States in 1829 and set up architectural practice in New Bedford, Massachusetts. His first building was Symphony House (1833) in Bangor, Maine. Five years later, Upjohn had moved to New York City and was working on Trinity Church (1839-1846) on Wall Street. Modeled on English Gothic examples, Trinity Church inaugurated a new departure in the American Gothic Revival style. Upjohn's numerous churches and residences located from New England to North Carolina established his role in 19th-century American architectural history.

The significance of Upjohn's contribution to American architecture was expanded by his architectural books, such as Rural Architecture (1852). Groups like Christ Church parish or individuals could choose a design from a book instead of hiring an architect to erect a church following Upjohn's plans. Through this "borrowing" of designs, Upjohn's architectural influence spread.

The Upjohn-style church in Owensville, Maryland, was built through the generosity of Mrs. Ellen Hall McCaleb Burwell, in memory of her two children, one of whom died in a sleighing accident and one from yellow fever.

Christ Church, created as an independent parish in 1862, occupies the site of an earlier chapel of ease of its "mother" parish, St. James-the-Less.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bridgman, Mrs. E. W., Jr. "Christ Church, West River, Maryland."  
n.d. Files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis.

Bridgwater, William and Kurtz, Seymour, eds. The Columbia Encyclopedia. 3rd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967.

Land Records, Anne Arundel County Courthouse, Annapolis, Md.

[see continuation sheet]

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38° 51' 14"	76° 35' 52"				
NE	38° 51' 14"	76° 35' 42"				
SE	38° 51' 06"	76° 35' 42"				
SW	38° 51' 06"	76° 35' 52"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy Miller, Historian, and William Morgan		DATE: Aug. 16, 1972
ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland 21401	CODE: 24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer for Maryland</u></p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Anne Arundel	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

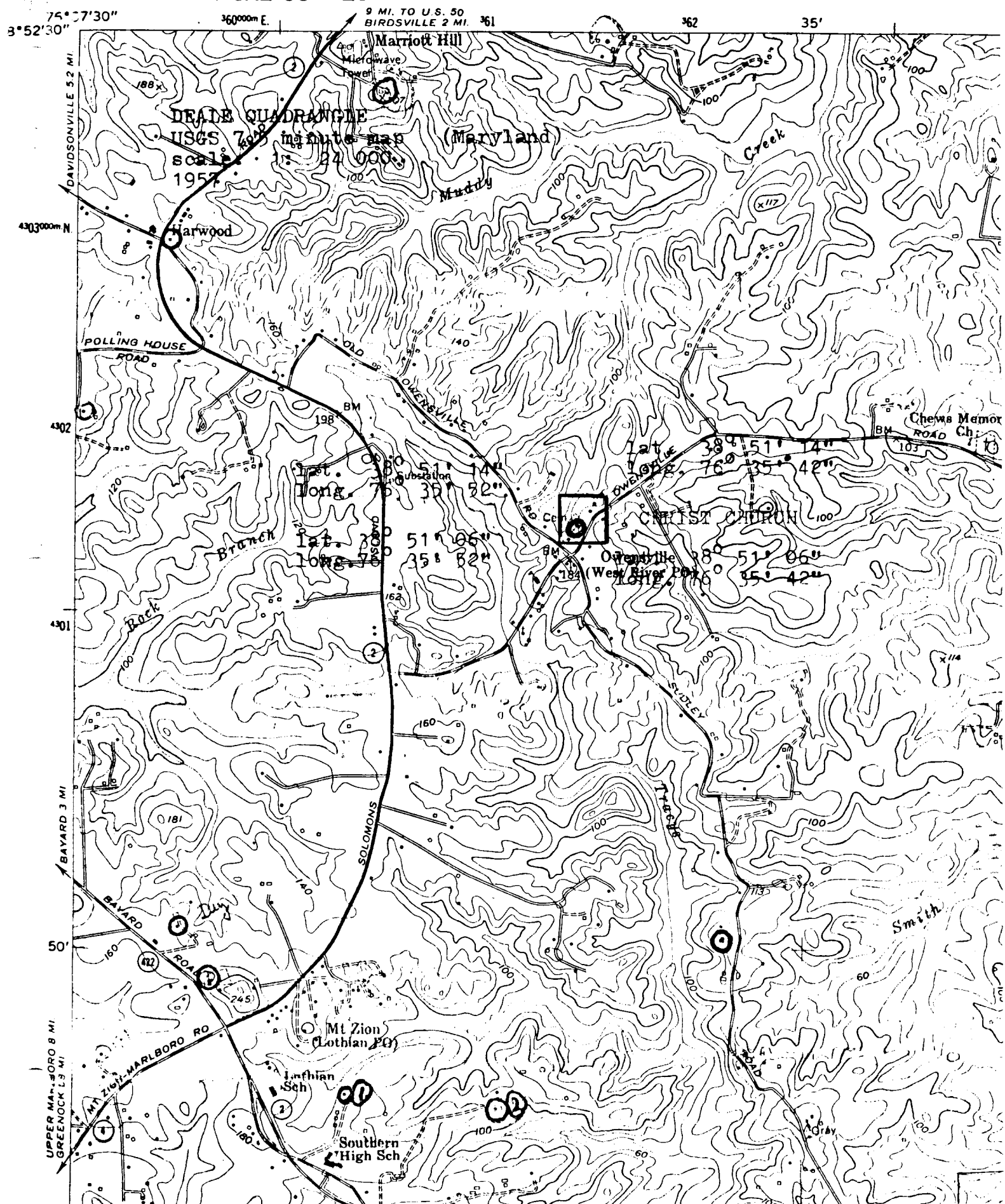
Christ Church

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church  
Architecture An Episode in Taste 1840-1856.  
Baltimore: the Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

Upjohn, Everard M. Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman.  
New York: Columbia University Press.

Upjohn, Richard. Rural Architecture. 1852.



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Maryland	
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COMMON: Christ Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, West River; Christ Church, Owensville			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
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CITY OR TOWN: Owensville			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Anne Arundel	CODE 003
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: USGS 7.5 minute map; Deale Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1: 24 000			
DATE: 1957			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Property boundaries where required.</li> <li>2. North arrow.</li> <li>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</li> </ol>			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Anne Arundel	CODE 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: William Morgan			
DATE OF PHOTO: June 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Rd., Annapolis, Md. 21401			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  south elevation			

GPO 921-737





ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Christ Church

AA-221

S/S

CHRIST

CHRIST CHURCH

5/24/69

R. b

SAT

TAD

620  
HJ

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

OR 2/68

AA VII-136



AA-221

South elevation

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN

Christ Ch. West River AA Jun '69



Christ Church. Ovingtonville  
a a co

AA-221



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Chest Ch. West River AA Jun '69

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN